

This is to encourage the development of locally controlled low power FM stations. As a community activist I am well aware of the difficulty that locally based community groups have in accessing the air waves to represent their community interests.

I am concerned that nationally syndicated broadcasters that utilize low power FM frequencies do not adequately meet the needs of myself and residents of my community. Over the past several years there has been a decline in the provision of local news events and coverage as well as a lack of coverage of events that address local community concerns. Although many of these events are broadcast on cable television community access channels, there are many low income people who for economic reasons cannot afford the cost of subscribing to cable television who are as a result of this unable to access these channels.

Locally controlled low power FM stations provide a means of local groups to utilize the air waves to develop their talents and can be used as a means of making the community aware of local talent both musical or dramatic in nature.

Locally controlled stations allow for the promotion of locally based political and social concerns, similar to that which is done on community access cable television channels. This is a valuable use of the air waves which has been overlooked by large for-profit broadcasting corporations which have no real interest in promoting local activities in the communities that they serve.

As a disabled person (blind) the use of radio as a medium communications is also very important to me on a personal level. Through the use of locally controlled or locally accessed radio stations I am able to be more aware of events in my community that I would not otherwise be aware of. Although much information is accessible through the Internet, the use of locally controlled low power FM stations presents an added benefit to other disabled people like myself who utilize alternative means of receiving information. An example of this occurred many years ago while I was attending the University of Michigan, majoring in political science with an emphasis in local government administration. A locally owned commercial FM station regularly broadcast city council meetings as part of their normal programming as a means of showing its commitment to the local community. As a result of this commitment on the part of this locally owned radio station I was not only able to benefit from this resource to further my education, but was also able to become active in the local community through this process. This occurred in the early 1970's. How many commercially owned FM stations would do this today? This example demonstrates the need for community controlled low power FM stations.